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REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF STATE PRISONS OF NEW YORK
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1916. Pp. 445.

Owing to a change in the fiscal year, this report covers only nine months. The cost of maintaining the four prisons at Sing Sing, Auburn, Clinton, and Great Meadows for this period was \$813,853.91. At Sing Sing the average expenditure per inmate per day was 56.32 cents, or \$154.25 per year. At Great Meadows the average expenditure per inmate per day was 54.09 cents, of which 31.92 cents were for "ordinary support." At Clinton the average expenditure per day was 53.53 cents. At Auburn the average expenditure was 52.68, of which 28.02 cents were for ordinary support. The daily average population of these four prisons for the period covered was 5,422; the number on parole on June 30, 1916, was 2,406. The corresponding figures for the year 1907 were 3,456 daily average and 337 on parole, a notable increase in prison population and an especially notable increase in the number on parole.

At the Clinton prison a tuberculosis hospital is being built. At Clinton and Auburn the insanitary bucket system still prevails. Improved arrangements for the segregation of the different classes of prisoners, and much better provision for feeble-minded delinquents in New York are required. The medical report from Sing Sing includes the statement that the average number of men applying for treatment is less by 24 men per day, since the inmates have been allowed a large increase in outdoor privileges.

The utilization of the labor of prisoners as a partial payment from them for the expense which they cost the state and as a means of improving their health and character and general fitness for normal participation in the life of society, has been carried to a considerable length in the prisons of New York. However, this industrialization evidently might be much more whole-heartedly and progressively managed. There is a certain amount of agitation to do away with some of the less profitable and less educative indoor factory work and to substitute for it labor in the open air, either by much more extensive employment of prison labor for road work or by the acquisition of additional farm lands. Farming appears to be the most profitable of the New York prison industries. It is also recommended by the Superintendent of Prisons that as a substitute for cash payments to prisoners, reductions of sentence be offered as a reward for faithful labor. The net profits of the prison industries at Sing Sing for the nine months covered by this report were \$44,180.17; total net sales of products from this prison amounted to \$239,477.36. At Auburn the industries show a net loss of \$8,860.97 for this period, although for the preceding nine months they had shown a profit of \$14,006.20. The falling off is attributed to the increased cost of materials and to the falling off in orders for the products of that particular prison.

Prison industries at Clinton earned a net profit of \$42,917.95 during the nine months.

School attendance at the New York prisons appears to be in general voluntary; however, a considerable proportion of inmates avail themselves of this privilege. A better library equipment, both of supplementary material for the school work and for general circulation would be desirable. Of 1,582 inmates at Sing Sing, 21 had had a college education, and 19 an academic education; only 615 were married, and but 539 claimed to be abstainers from alcoholic beverages. At Clinton 62 out of 1,443 had had college or high school education.

The church affiliations claimed by the prisoners were as follows:

	Sing Sing	Auburn	Clinton	Great Meadows
Catholic	862	761	789	558
Protestant	432	486	476	331
Hebrew	259	101	150	82
Greek-Catholic	14	..	..	12
Pagan	2	..	..	..
Others .....	..	..	..	6
None	7	7	20	..

The nativity of the prisoners was:

	Sing Sing	Auburn	Clinton	Great Meadows
U. S. born.....	892	883	1,050	518
Foreign born.....	690	472	393	471

Twelve per cent of the men admitted at Auburn showed a positive Wasserman blood test and 13 per cent of those admitted were illiterate, 27 per cent of those admitted at Clinton were illiterate and at Great Meadows 181 out of 989 were illiterate.

In addition to the reports of the four prisons mentioned, this volume contains the report of the Auburn prison for women and the Valentine State Farm for women, the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminal Insane, the Dannemora State Hospital, and the State Board of Parole. The Matteawan State Hospital appears to be in a shamefully crowded condition. The report recommends that this condition be relieved by ceasing to send paretics and others who commit minor disorderly acts that are mere symptoms of their disease and who do not reveal such dangerous tendencies as to require their commitment to an institution like that at Matteawan. Of the 103 admitted to this institution during the nine months covered by this report, 54 were natives of the U. S. and 49 were foreign born.